

REMARKS

In the most recent office action, claims 20-24 and 31-33 were allowed, but claim 19 was rejected and claims 25-30 were withdrawn from consideration.

In response, the Applicants have amended claim 19 in the manner discussed by telephone interview with the Examiner on March 28, 2005. The amendment clarifies that the claimed peptides/proteins are useful for generating Flt4-specific antibodies, thereby rendering moot all bases of rejection. The claimed peptides and proteins have other uses too, many of which are set forth in the application.

The Applicants also submit a terminal disclaimer that renders moot the double patenting rejection. The Applicants reserve the right to demonstrate separate patentability.

Finally, the Applicants renew their request (made during the interview) to have (withdrawn) claims 25-30 examined. The claims depend from the allowed polypeptide claims and recite encoding polynucleotides, for example. Both polypeptide and polynucleotide claims were examined and allowed in the '755 patent. Because of the relationship between polypeptide and encoding polynucleotides and the dependant nature of these claims, no significant burden will be required to confirm the allowability of claims 25-30. The terminal disclaimer filed herewith renders moot any potential double patenting issues involving polynucleotide claims in the '755 patent.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for courtesies extended during the aforementioned interview, which is summarized above. A prompt notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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